

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program  
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,  
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

**County:** PLACER

**Applicant:** PLACER COUNTY, DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY SERVICES

**Project Title:** SQUAW VALLEY PARK FUELS REDUCTION AND RELATED FIRE SAFE ACTIVITIES

**Reference Number:** SNC 070225

**PROJECT SCOPE**

This project will reduce the potential for downstream silt deposition in the Squaw Creek and Truckee River watersheds by completing fuel load reduction work as part of a comprehensive vegetation management plan at Squaw Valley Park. Fuel load reduction on Squaw Valley Park's 28-acre site will:

- Protect the park's wetlands and intermittent drainages from siltation, erosion, and potential contamination from debris resulting from a major forest fire;
- Improve the condition of the surrounding 21 acres of coniferous forest, three acres of meadow, and four acres of active recreation sites by thinning and brush removal to allow trees to receive adequate sun and nutrients;
- Protect Squaw Valley Park, the only significant public recreation opportunity in the Squaw Valley Area, from the spread of wildfire;
- Coincide with fuel load reduction work being coordinated by various agencies in the adjacent Lake Tahoe Basin.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Contract and coordinate with the California Conservation Corps, Air Pollution Control District, and Placer County Resource Conservation District for fuel reduction labor, removal of byproducts, and forestry expertise	March – May 2008
Complete fuel load removal	June – September 2008
Complete site clean-up and erosion control work	October 31, 2008
<b>Final Report/Final Payment Request</b>	<b>December 1, 2008</b>

**PROJECT COSTS**

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Fuel Break Labor	\$163,500
Fuel Break Labor – Equipment Operation	\$50,000
Oversight by Registered Forester	\$3,500
County Project Management Staff	\$5,000
Masticator Unit	\$10,000
Travel	\$7,000
Equipment Rentals	\$6,500
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$245,500</b>

**Letters of Support:**

- U.S Forest Service, Truckee Ranger District
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

- Ed Heneveld, Friends of Squaw Creek, Truckee River Watershed Council, Squaw Valley Property Owner's Association, Squaw Valley Municipal Advisory Council
- North Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Squaw Valley Fire Department
- Placer County Parks Commission
- Squaw Valley Municipal Advisory Council

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends funding this project at the requested amount of \$245,500.

## **SQUAW VALLEY PARK**

### **FUEL LOAD REDUCTION AND RELATED FIRE SAFE ACTIVITIES**

#### **Project Summary**

This project, proposed by the Placer County Department of Facility Services - Parks Division (Parks Division), in partnership, entails fuel load reduction work as a part of a comprehensive vegetation management plan at Squaw Valley Park. This project will make Squaw Valley Park a safe place to recreate and an environmentally sound landscape that will reduce local fire hazard and protect the Truckee River, Squaw Creek, and their watersheds.

Squaw Valley Park is a 28 acre site located at the intersection of Squaw Valley Road and Highway 89 in Squaw Valley. The park opened in 2004 and has a soccer field, tot lots, bicycle trail, native surfaced trail and a trail staging area.

For many years, the forests around Lake Tahoe were not managed for fire control. There was no forest thinning or removal of under story vegetation and debris so the forest became dense, unhealthy, and susceptible to wild fires.

In coordination with the Fire Chief of the Squaw Valley Fire Protection District, Placer County has already conducted some removal of high risk vegetation that threatens Squaw Valley Park and community with devastating fire hazard. This grant would support completing the vegetation management plan. Focus of the vegetation management work will be to get and then maintain the vegetation in a healthy condition. This will make the area more resistant to fire and, should a fire break out, make fighting the fire easier and more effective. Defensible space guidelines call for breaking up the fuel ladder by pruning up lower branches of trees. Trees will be pruned at least 4-5' above the ground. Material, such as twigs and branches, will be chipped and blown back onto the ground to act as a soil stabilization measure, as well as weed inhibitor. Standing dead/dying trees will be cut down and chipped and the forest will be thinned.

The total project cost is \$349,000. County contributions combined with the value of community volunteer labor totals \$103,000. The total grant amount being requested is \$245,500.